

TOP SECRET*Economy***THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301****MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE***Chairman, JCS***SUBJECT: OXCART and SR-71 Operations**

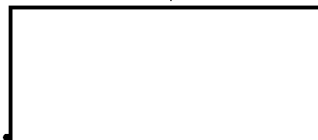
It has been decided to extend the OXCART operational capability through June 30, 1968. This capability is to be based on five operational aircraft and the minimum test support necessary to insure safety of flight. The current budgetary estimate of [redacted] additional cost 25X1 will be used as the basis for planning this operational extension.

Concurrently, planning for introduction of the SR-71 into reconnaissance operations in North Vietnam should proceed as rapidly as ECM implementation and other program considerations will permit. In this regard, it is requested that alternative plans and recommendations for phasing OXCART and SR-71 operations, to include simultaneous operations in the Far East, be presented to me as soon as possible.

Please take the actions necessary to revise the present plans for phase out of the OXCART to insure continued operation as defined above.

OSD REVIEW COMPLETED

NRO review(s) completed

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25X1